

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee Minutes for January 9, 2006

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Scott Smith (left at around 8:00pm to attend another meeting), Ted Packard, and Christopher Tonkin. Pete Howard, Joey Glushko, and Doug Greenfield also attended.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31.

*The minutes of the December meeting were approved with minor corrections.

Introductions and sharing local conversations about bicycling. Ted told us about son's participation in a cyclocross race.

Discuss plans for ABAC's Winter Social, scheduled for Thursday night, February 16, Whittemore-Robbins House, Arlington Center. Andy Rubel confirmed our request that he speak at the social. Rosemary Jason and John Allen are also invited. Rubel will also bring maps and books to sell. Jack thought that there will not be enough time to play the "Cyclist's Eye View" video during the Social. We discussed how Rubel updates his maps. Rubel will also talk about local bike path and bike route connections. Scott contacted Linda Guttman about providing cocoa and is waiting for an answer.

Review dates and plans for the upcoming Bicycling Skills classes in Arlington. There are three upcoming classes in February, March and May. Bicycling 101 will meet in April. There will be additional classes taught in Waltham. Ron asked about the length of time between the introductory class and the advanced class. Pete asked about the spread in ages of those who have attended previous classes.

Update on bicycling to school issues. Sue Scheffler has formed a subcommittee of the School Committee that will deal with the broader topic of safety issues and traffic congestion around the schools. Scott will be the TAC representative on that committee. One of the missions of the committee is to improve access to the schools via alternative modes of transportation.

ACTION ITEM: Jack will schedule an ABAC subcommittee meeting concerning biking to the Ottoson School, including possible bike-skills classes for middle-schoolers.

Update/Status on the Mass. Ave. redesign project. The Town is trying to enable some of the earmarked funds to be used for additional design work.

Feedback on ABAC Town Report. We reviewed the ABAC annual report to the Town. Joey suggested some changes and the addition of a preamble. She really liked the bullet points!

Feedback on bikeway plowing column. Joey told us that there are 125 miles of paved roads in Arlington answering Jack's inquiry. She had a few more stylistic changes to make. Jack told us some likely future topics such as "Safe riding in traffic" and "Riding through intersections."

Request from Danvers Bi-Peds for ABAC to endorse Danvers Rail-Trail project. For background see www.danversbipeds.org. One abutter in Danvers quotes a 1997 report from Lexington that is unfavorable to the Minuteman Bikeway. We have never heard of this report. We feel that the path has been good for Arlington. Pete reminded us about all the objections to the Minuteman Bikeway, including dire predictions that never came true.

Open Forum. Pete asked if we are going to file any warrant articles this year. Joey told us of a warrant article about parking at open spaces around town. Pete mentioned that the bike rack in Arlington Heights is loose again. Jack suggested that we do a survey of the bike racks in town to make sure that they are solidly anchored. Joey asked if it is possible to have the bike rack outside Carberry's (on the bike path) refurbished. We discussed the fact that Gold's Gym still has their bike rack located in a handicapped parking space. We also revisited the controversy about whether BMX bikes should be allowed in the new skate board park.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11.

*Designates a vote was taken.

The minutes were recorded and submitted by Stephan Miller.